

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's final Action dated June 12, 2008. Claim 1 has been amended, without intending to abandon or to dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. No claims have been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1-15 and 18 are now pending. As set forth herein, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

The undersigned would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview held on September 12, 2008. During that interview, the undersigned proposed removing a phrase from Claim 1 that was identified in the final Office Action as being ambiguous, and therefore causing Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2-15 to be indefinite. In addition, the undersigned noted that the phrase was not required to overcome references cited in previous Office Actions. The Examiner indicated that the proposed amendment would likely place the application in condition for allowance, although the Examiner also indicated that an additional search would need to be performed. Accordingly, no final agreement regarding allowable subject matter was reached.

The amendment to Claim 1 removes the phrase indicated in the final Office Action as causing Claims 1-15 to be indefinite. In addition, it is noted that the deleted phrase does not correspond to any element present in allowed Claim 18. Therefore, it is submitted that the deleted phrase is not necessary for the invention set forth in Claim 1 to be found patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, as indicated by the final Office Action, none of the pending claims should be subject to rejection as being anticipated by or obvious in view of any of the references of record, and all of the pending claims should be allowed.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if doing so would be of assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 12, 2008